

HOUSE of the SUN

12

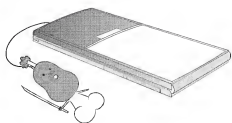


Taamo

HOUSE of the SUN

12

by Taamo





----- story 45 -----
Withdrawing



----- story 46 -----
Lost



----- story 47 -----
Decision

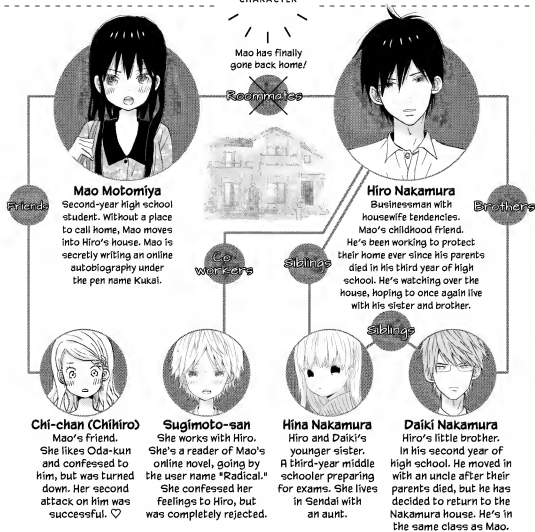


----- story 48 -----
Lantern Light





CHARACTER



STORY

After her father gets remarried, Mao feels like she no longer has a home and moves in with Hiro. Hiro's younger brother Daiki also moves back home, and the three of them live together.

The Motomiya family and the Nakamura family went on a joint vacation to Sendai. There, Hina, who had constantly refused to return home, finally answered Hiro's wishes. What's more, Mao heard the words she'd been waiting to hear from her father: "Come home to us." She's finally able to go home.

The time for Hiro and Mao to share their feelings with one another has finally arrived, but just then, Mao's birth mother appears before her...?!

Hello! It's Taamo. The stuff I write here in this chat space is always awkward because I'm so awkward at small talk. I have so much trouble tweeting that even I'm getting bored of me.

If the timing matches up, I might reply to you. If you'd like that, please feel free to get in touch with me! It's @taammoo!

Also, I'm sorry as ever about my bad handwriting.

Taamo





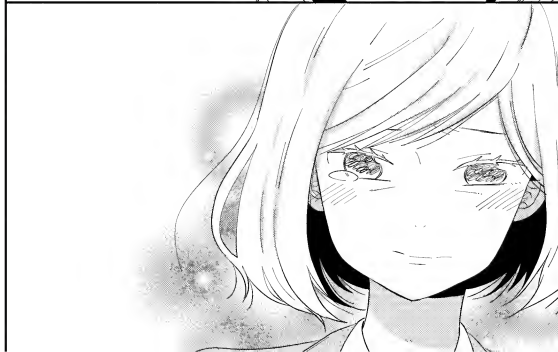
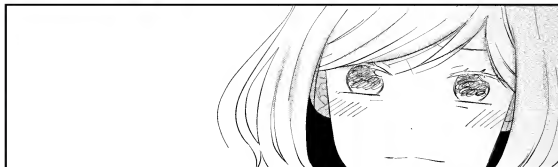
This is the sketch for the drawing I did a page or so ago. I usually make things more sketchy, but I think it bothers my editors. I'm not as good at drawing men, so when I have to draw them, it takes twice as long as it does for girls. I struggle over Hiro the most.



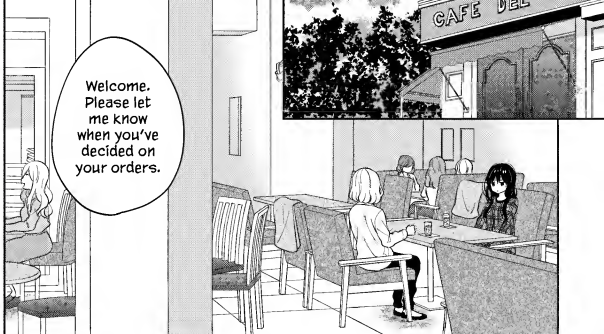












Welcome.
Please let
me know
when you've
decided on
your orders.



Your
boy-
friend?

No.

Your
dad?

N-no!



Text Entry

Hiro, sorry.
Turns out I can't
come today.



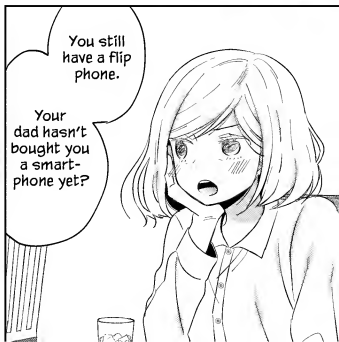
Of
course.

Can
I text
some-
one?



I'm fine
with this
phone.

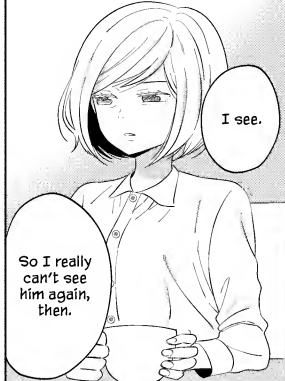
Hmm...



You still
have a flip
phone.

Your
dad hasn't
bought you
a smart-
phone yet?







*Not
my...*

*...dad's
child?*

*Did he always
look at me with
that in mind?*

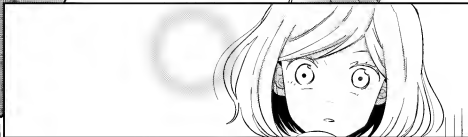
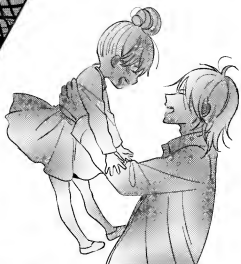


But...

...what if...

*...Yui-chan actually
is my dad's real
daughter...*

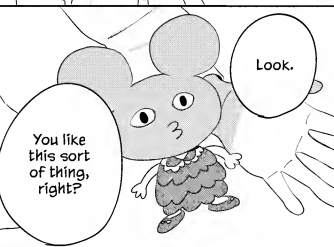
*But... then
it would be
the same for
Yui-chan...*

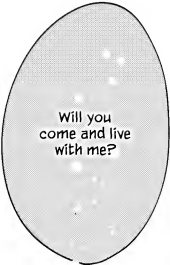


Don't worry!
You're definitely
your father's
daughter, 100
percent!

I'm sorry,
Mao!

Mao...
I really
have made
things hard
for you.





Will you
come and live
with me?



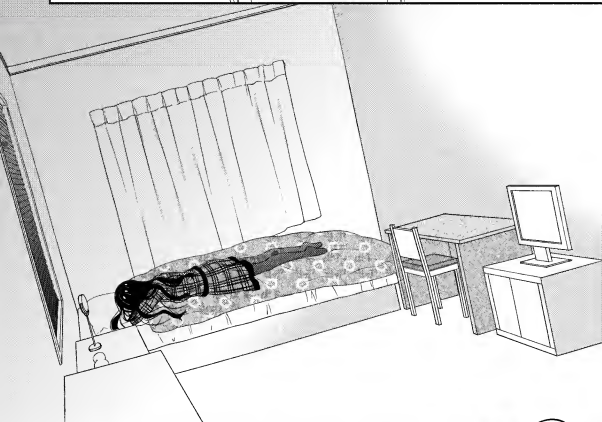
I split up
with him right
after I left
you, and I've
been alone
ever since.



I guess if
you're not
happy, you
can't make
anyone
else happy.



Hey, Mao.



"Worry
me."



I can't
tell Hiro.

I finally
managed to
come home,
and I really,
really don't
want to make
him worry.



*Anyone I ask
would definitely
say that to me.*

*"You should
stay where
you are."*

*And I know
exactly what he'd
say, anyway.*

*And she's
all alone.*

*...is my
mother.*

*...that
person...*

But...

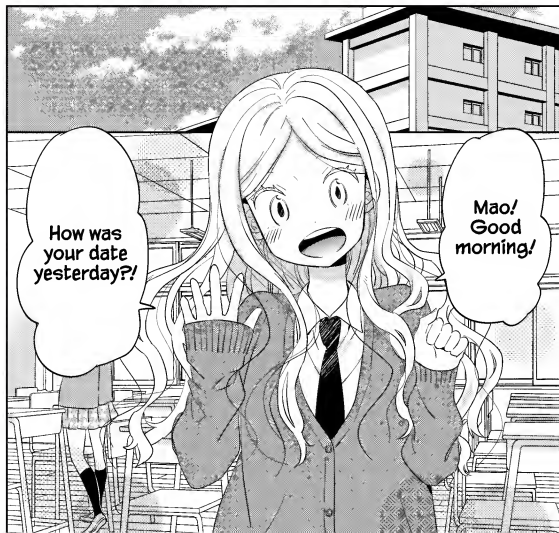
*I truly
believe that
she's a selfish
person.*



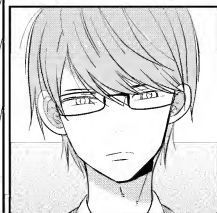
*...what that
feels like.*

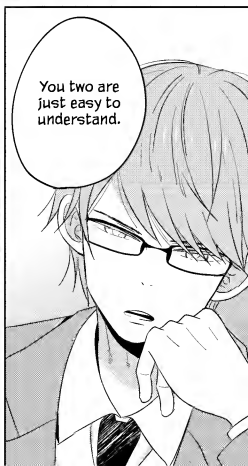
...know exactly...

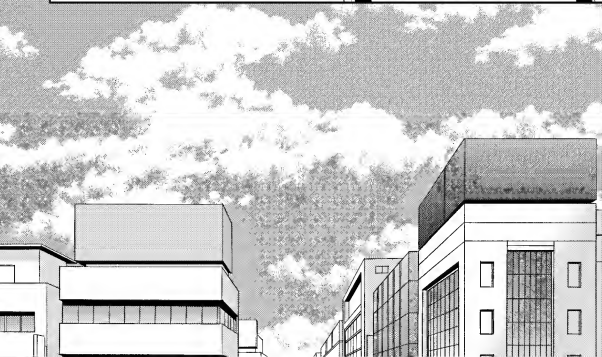
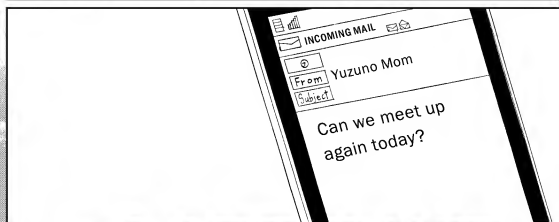
And I...

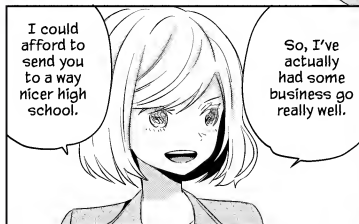














...Oh.

...I like
the school
I'm at now,
though.



But if you
say no, I was
planning on
going home
without
seeing him.



So, you
don't want
to meet
with Dad?



If you're
going to
come live
with me, I
guess I'll
have to
see him.

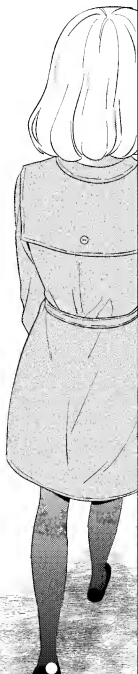


...all
alone?

Back
home...



It's been ten
years since you
abandoned me.



Yes.

To my
lonely
house.



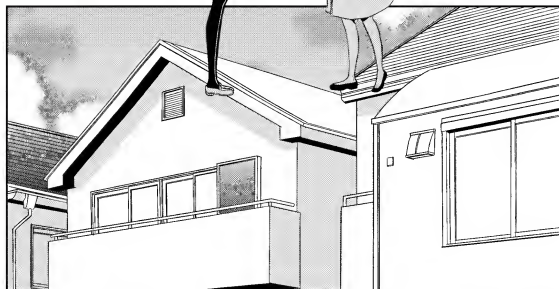
So...

...

...Mom.

...to
think about
living with
you...

Give me
a little bit
of time...





Mao-
chan?

SLAM

バ
ドン



*I want to keep
the family I have
close to me.*

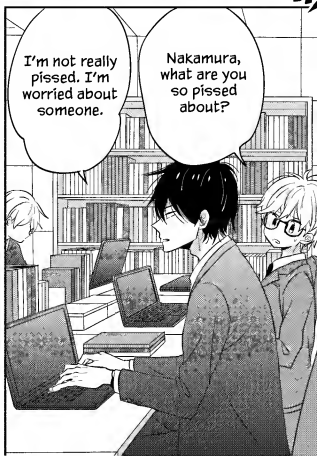
*I don't
know what I
should do.*

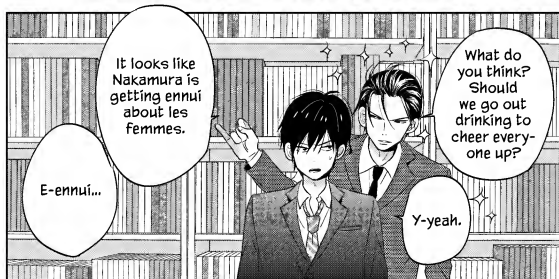
*I can't just
leave her behind.*

*I'm the only
one left to reach
out to her.*

*But she
has no one.*

*I know better
than anyone just
how much a helping
hand can save you.*







BUSTLE
ざわ

Coming
up!

Oh, and
fried chicken
and some
wasabi
octopus!

Ma'am,
can we get
another
pitcher of
beer?

BUSTLE
ざわ
ざわ



お

You
guys like
generals?!

お

YEAHAH!

?

YEAH?



...



Yeaah!

Is everyone
drinkin' out
there?!





Something's
happened
to Mao.



...but she
won't tell me
anything.

It might not
be anything
serious...



Huh?

To Ku-
Mao-san?!



This is
how it
always is.

I'm starting
to think
she doesn't
really trust
me at all...

...and
I'm really
depressed.

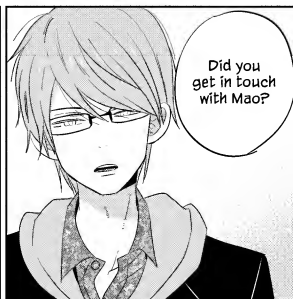


I'm
pretty
drunk.

Sorry.

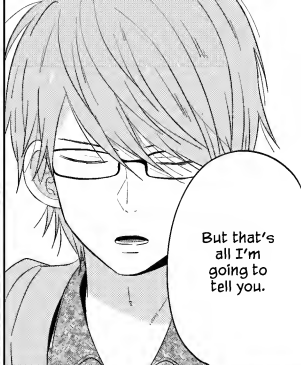








Why is that?



But that's all I'm going to tell you.



Because you're pissing me off.



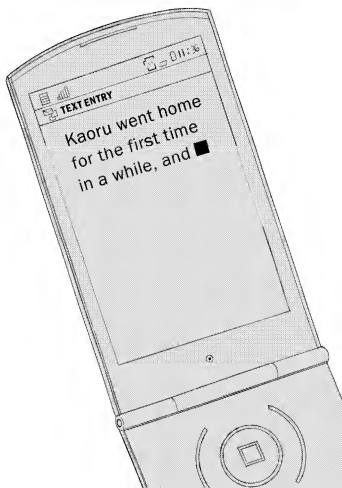
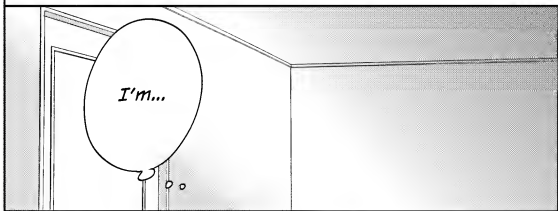
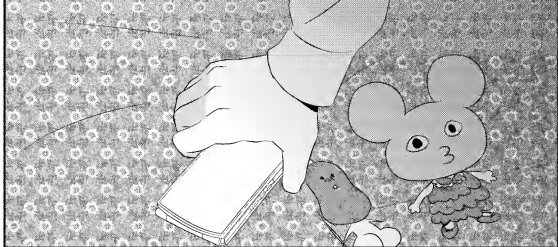
Sorry.

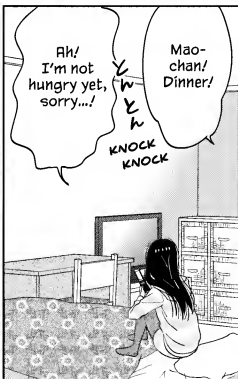
I get it.

...

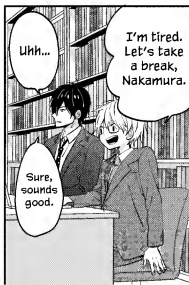


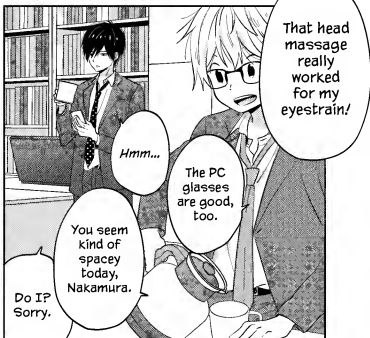
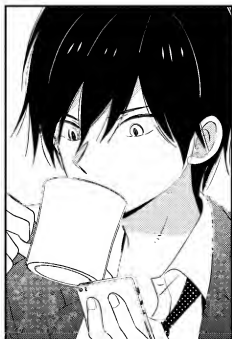


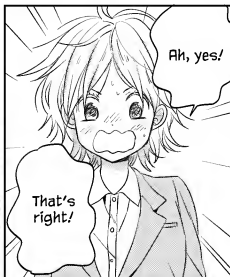


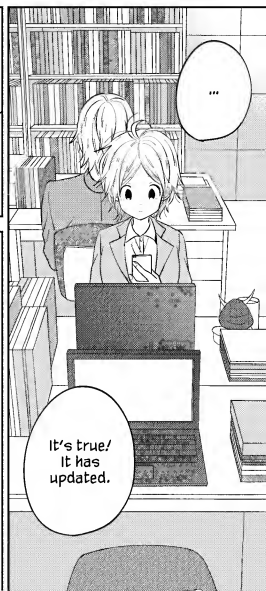
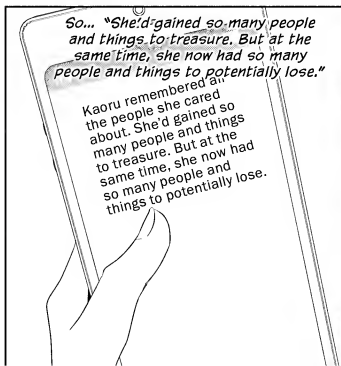
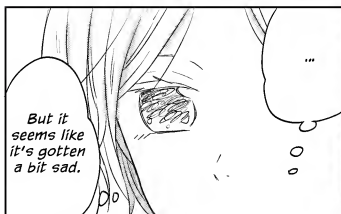












...to
Kukai-san.

...if
something's
happened...

...makes
me really
wonder...

Seeing
Nakamura-
san acting
like that...



≡
DING
コ
DONG
カ
DINNG
ニ

DONNG
コ
DINNG
≡
ニ









突然のノロケ



I can't tell Oda-kun?

You definitely want to tell him?!



I get so mad when I think about how you belong to Oda-kun!

Mao, you're hurting me!



He'd let Hiro know.

Ah, of course, don't tell Oda-kun, but don't tell Daiki, either.



I think you should ask your new mom about it.

Ugh... You scared me.

Just kidding!

But, you know...

For the same reasons that you asked me.



I think
she'd be
happy
you
talked to
her, too.

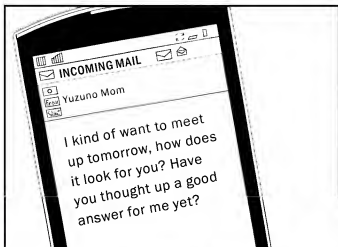


...Yeah.



...I can
talk to
my dad
about.

It's
definitely
not some-
thing...



Mao-chan?

KNOCK
トン
KNOCK
トン

I have
to...

...
make a
decision.

They're
...

...so
precious
to me.
Hiro,
too.

Will you
eat it
with us?

Dinner's
ready.

トン トン
KNOCK KNOCK

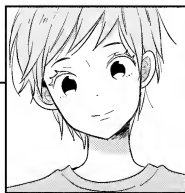
I'm not
really hungry
right now, so
I'll eat later.

Sorry.



That's
enough
of this!

Everyone's
waiting! If you
don't come,
it'll be time
for bang-bang
punishment!



Let's
eat.

CREAK
#1...



Wait,
wait,
wait!



Waaaaah!

BANG

BANG

BANG

BANG





Mao,
it's your favorite.
Beef
bowls.

Let's eat!
Let's say
grace!



Hm?



...



Dinner's
going to
get cold.

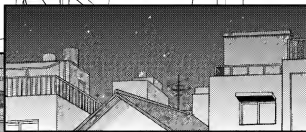
Just
hurry up.



Everyone
would have
ignored me
and acted
super careful
around me.

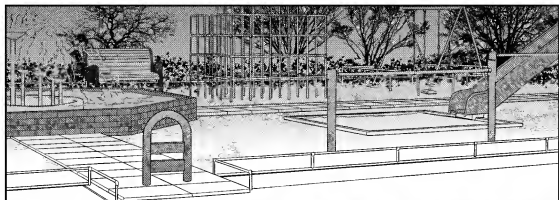
...Yui-chan
would have
taken my
seat.

Before...



Wait! We'd like some potatoes!











But I'm worried about a plot point, and I've gotten stuck.



Thanks, Mom.



Even though I know I have to deal with it, all I want to do is run away.

Even just thinking about the problem is all I can bring myself to do right now.



Yeah, like that.

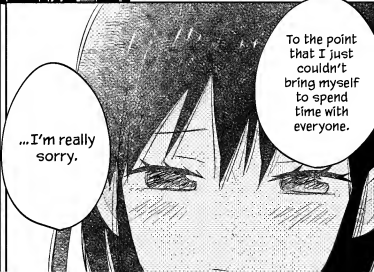
They call that birth pangs, I think.



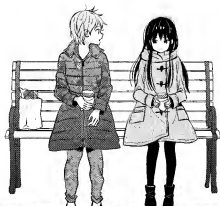
I don't want to face it...



...I'm really sorry.



To the point that I just couldn't bring myself to spend time with everyone.



Tell me
about it.



The main
character has
managed to
create this new
home, and it's
very precious
to her.

But she
has a blood
relative who
lives very
far away.

And that
person is
living all
alone.

So they
ask the main
character to
come live
with them.



On
the other
hand...

...she
knows how
miserable it
feels to be
all alone.

She can't
ignore this
other blood
relative.



But I don't
know what
someone's
supposed to
do in that
situation.



...but can
I tell you a
story about
myself?

I don't
know if
it'll do you
any good...



Hmm...

But the
protagonist
fundamentally...

...wants
to stay with
her precious
new family.

But...

I
chose...

...your
father over
my mother.

Because
of that, my
mother—your
grandmother,
Mao-chan—

...was very
opposed
to our
marriage.

Your father
and I both
have children,
right?

She hasn't
come to
visit even
once, has
she?

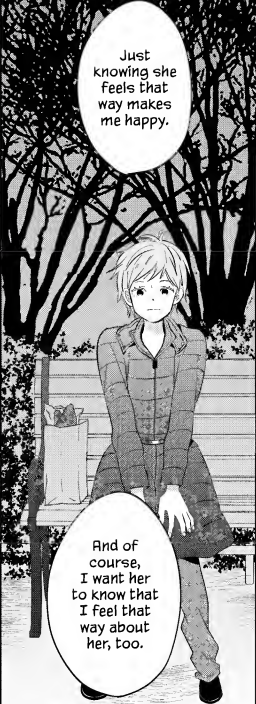
"I'm not
accepting what
you're doing, but
I want you to
know wherever
you go, you're
my daughter."

She told
me...

That was
the last
thing she
said to me.

I imagine
it was a
shock to
her.

But even
so, when I
was leaving,
she brought
me a boxed
lunch and
sent me off.



Just knowing she feels that way makes me happy.

And of course, I want her to know that I feel that way about her, too.



It's hard to understand...

...but that's her way of cheering me on.

"Even though we're apart, we're still family."

"I'm always thinking about you."



Don't you think your protagonist's parents probably feel the same way that I do?



Which means that either decision is the right one.

As long as their feelings get across, it'll all be okay.

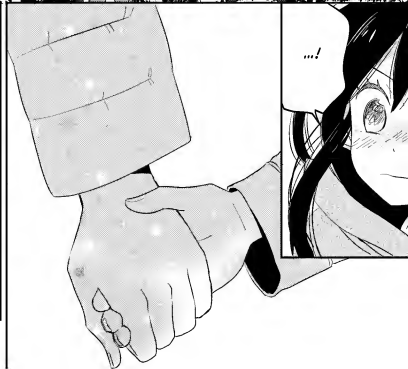
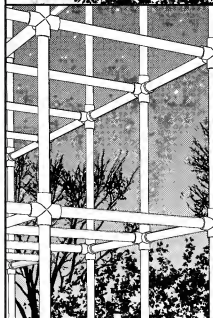


More than enough, I think.

Thank you.

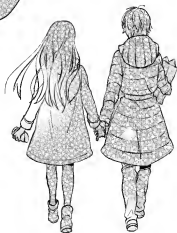
So did that help at all?





...my own
mom,
someday.

I think
I'd like
you to
meet...



Well, here
I am.

I like this
place. I love
their fried
chicken!
That's it.

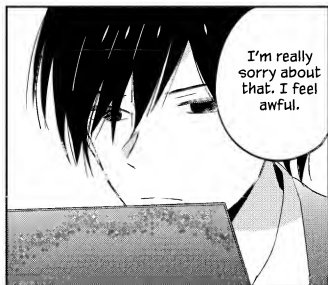
Look...!
I didn't come
here because
I'm worried
about Mao or
anything.

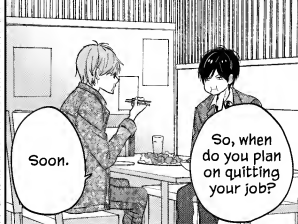
...

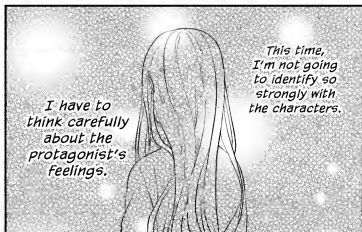












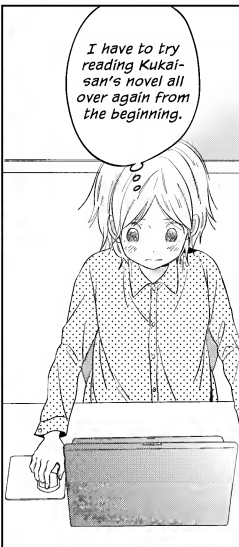
*I have to
think carefully
about the
protagonist's
feelings.*

*This time,
I'm not going
to identify so
strongly with
the characters.*



*...I can
maybe get
some kind
of idea what
happened to
Kukai-san.*

*That
way...*



*I have to try
reading Kukai-
san's novel all
over again from
the beginning.*



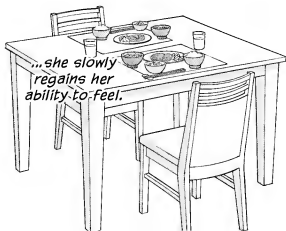
*That's
what it's
about.*

*She ends
up living
in a big
house with
a man
named
Takashi
and his
dog,
Croquette.*

*A girl
whose
parents
die finds
herself
with
nowhere
to go.*

*In
Kukai-
san's
novel...*

*But while
she's living
with Takashi...*



*...she slowly
regains her
ability to feel.*

*The only thing
she lived for was
getting home
and taking a hot
bath every night.*

*Kaoru was
someone
whose heart
was closed
up...*





...was
always
a love
letter.

This...



I can't...

...believe
that I tried
to take
something
so precious
away from
her...!

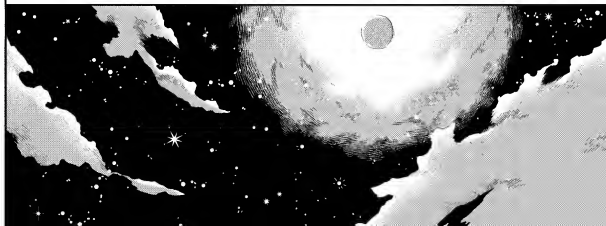
To
Nakamura-
san...

...and to
that house.

A very long
love letter.

*I have to
give Kukai-
san back to
Mao-san.*

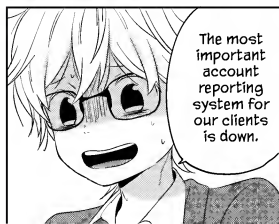
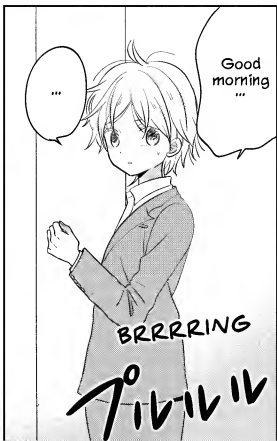
*I have
to give
it back...*

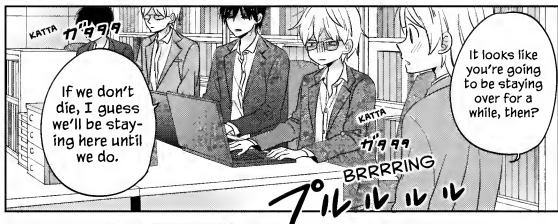




Thank you so
much for reading!





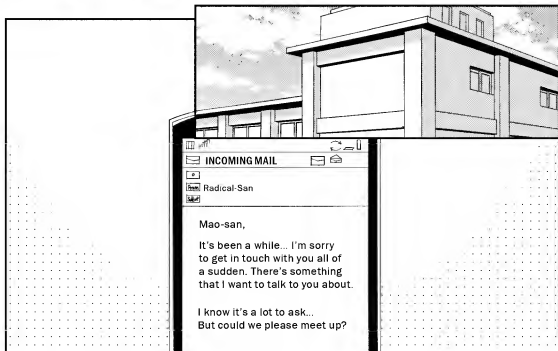




*But I want
to meet up
with Mao-san
as soon as
possible and
talk to her.*



*It doesn't
look like
I'll have
time to tell
him about
Kukai-san
...*



INCOMING MAIL

Radical-San

Mao-san,

It's been a while... I'm sorry
to get in touch with you all of
a sudden. There's something
that I want to talk to you about.

I know it's a lot to ask...
But could we please meet up?



INCOMING MAIL

Yuzuno Mom

Mao,

How do things look for
tomorrow?



Mao, this is a lot.



Ummm...



Yeah, I have.



Have you decided what you're going to say to your mom?

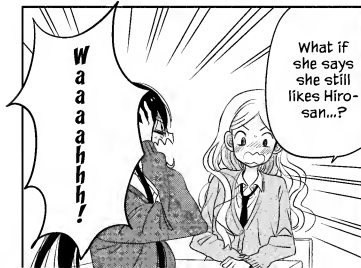


What does she want to say?

Then the problem is Radical-san.



I see.



Waaaaahhh!

What if she says she still likes Hiro-san...?







*I'm
so dumb!
I should
just die!*

*Ughh... And
here I was!
Doubting the
our feelings
for each
other!*



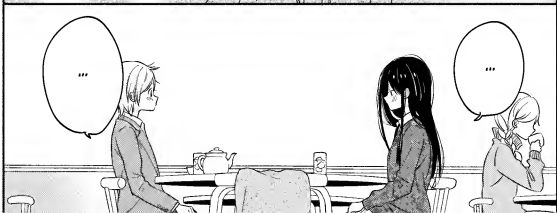
*Yes, very
worried...*

Worried?



*...Hiro would be
worried about me.*

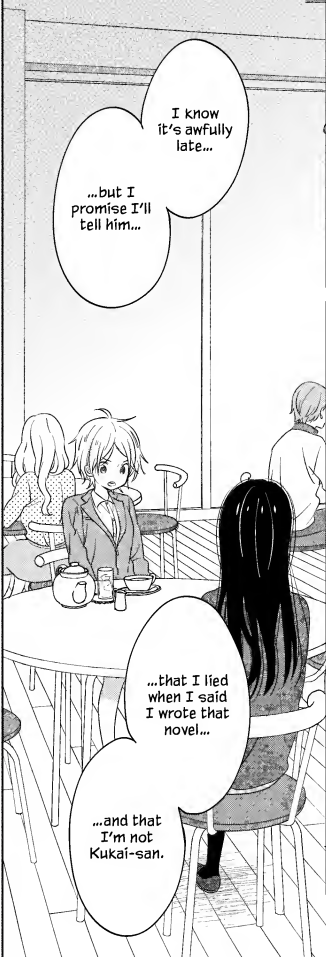
Of course...



...

...



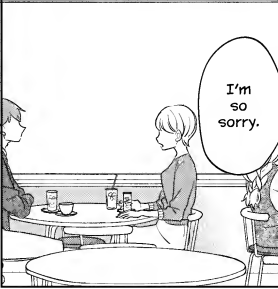


...but I
promise I'll
tell him...

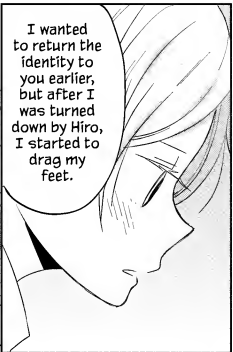
I know
it's awfully
late...

...that I lied
when I said
I wrote that
novel...

...and that
I'm not
Kukai-san.



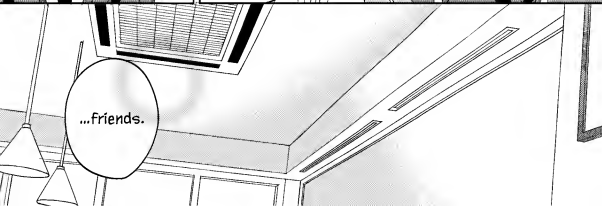
I'm
so
sorry.



I wanted
to return the
identity to
you earlier,
but after I
was turned
down by Hiro,
I started to
drag my
feet.



Oh, but
don't worry!
I promise
I won't tell
Hiro-san
that you're
actually
Kukai-san!





I think it's
because I
still wanted
to be friends
with you.



Huh?



Friends...?

F-



It's not
a lie,
though.

Um,
if it's
okay...

You don't
have to
make up
a lie like
that to
spare my
feelings...

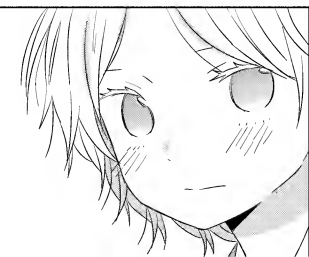


Kukai-
san...



I can
count
them
on one
hand!

Ah!
I just
don't
have many
friends!

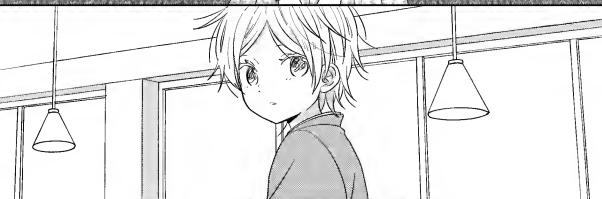






...to
Ma-kun's
birthday
party!

I promise
I'll come...



*...and pushed
me along.*

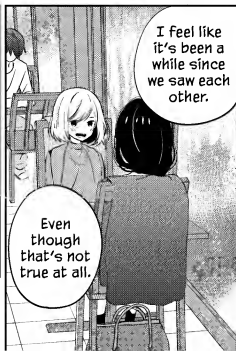
*...soaked
into me...*

*Radical-san's
smile...*

*I had
no idea
there'd be
a day when
we'd face
each other
again...*

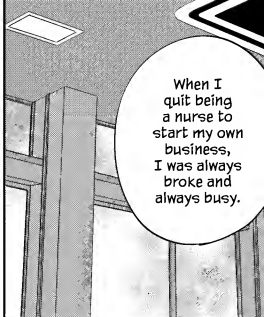
*...or a
day that
we could
smile
together
again.*







But things
have finally
calmed down
with work,
and I've
saved up.

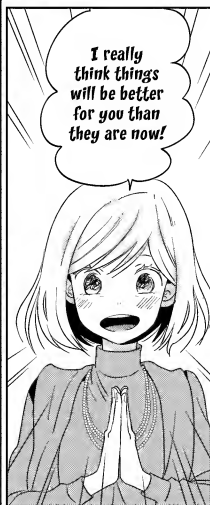


When I
quit being
a nurse to
start my own
business,
I was always
broke and
always busy.



That's why
I thought
I could finally
bring myself
to face you.





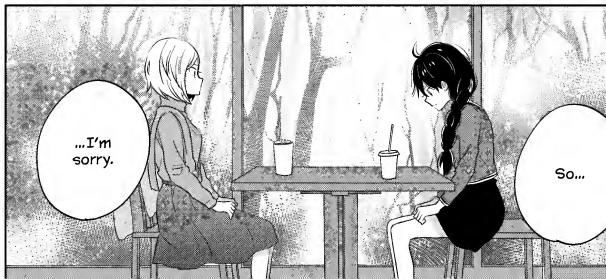


I'll make
sure you
live in luxur-

Mom...

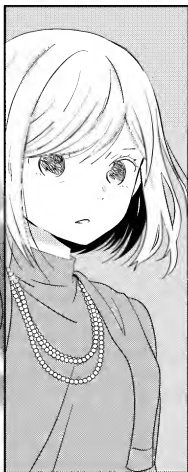
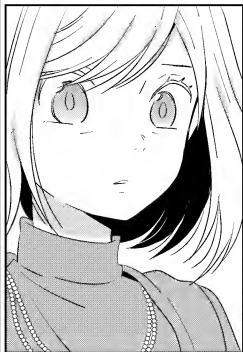
I can't
go and live
with you,
Mom.







I will always
be hoping
for your
happiness...



Just like
you were
always
thinking of
me, I'll be
thinking of
you.





Mao...

...you've
grown up.



...it's not
because
I raised
you.

But...







*...always been
searching for.*

*...that
I had...*

*It was
something...*

*Her warm
breath as
she spoke.*

*The nostalgic
scent of my
mother.*





15° PAT

15° PAT



Mao-
chan.

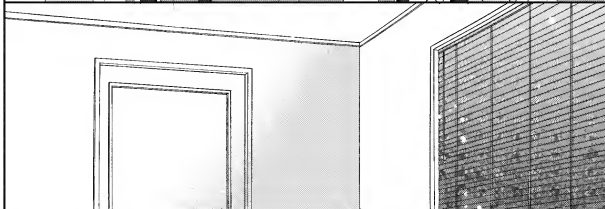


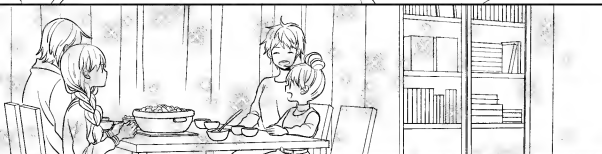
I'm
home.

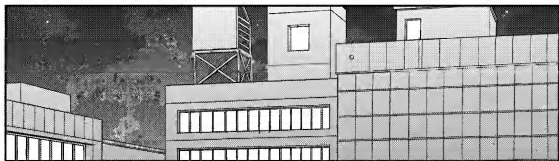


I'm
home.

I-









Are things going to work out?



Sugimoto-san, you haven't gone home yet?

Ah, I'll come along!



I figured I'd stay as long as there were odd jobs for me to do.



Are you sure?

Yes.



Ah, right. Sorry.



We've got to make them work out or else.



I should have bought some energy drinks, though.

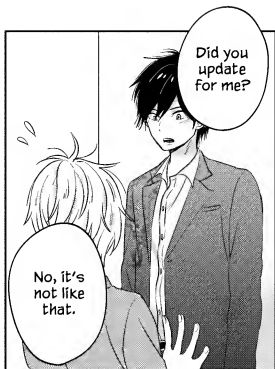
Well, if we don't fall asleep, we'll manage.



Oh, I can go back and buy some.



...Um.





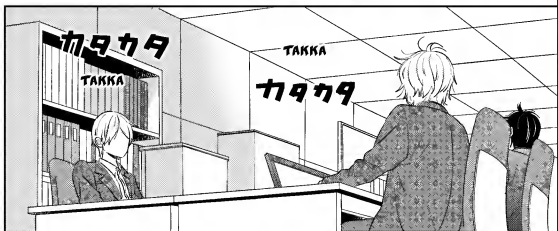














...done.

We're...



Good
job,
every-
body.



Concen-
trate...

...hard.

...

Mao's
probably
still
asleep.
I can't
reply
now.

6:00
A.M.,
huh?

"...and
concentrate
very hard."

"Please
read it over
again..."





"This place must be relaxing for Takashi, too," Kaoru thought as she embraced Croquette.

That house used to be a magical place. Even when she was sad enough to cry, she always laughed. She always thought there had to be an invisible wizard living there.



黄門辞典

MITO KOMON
ENCYCLOPEDIA

ス ト 一 覧

FULL CAST

MAIN CAST

Mitsukuni Mito - Kotaro Satomi

Sukesaburou Sasaki - Ryuuji Harada

Kakunoshin Atsumi - Masashi Gouda

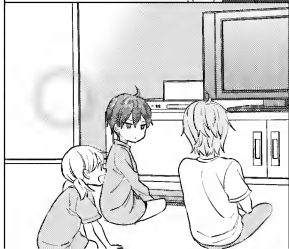
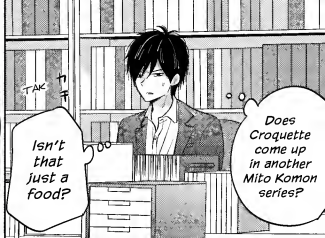
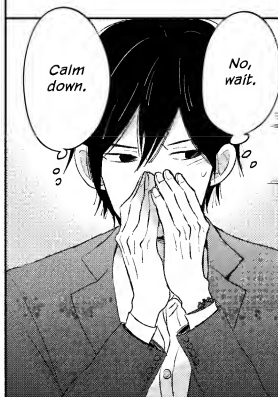
O-En of the Gale - Kaoru Yumi

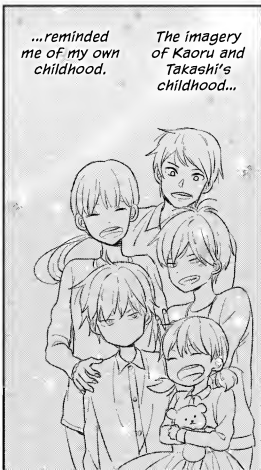
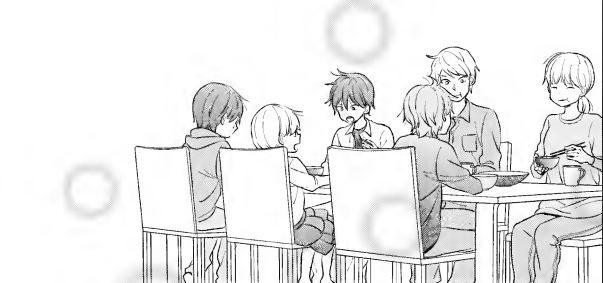
Shrewd Hachibee - Sanpei Hayashiya

Yashichi of the Pinwheel - Takashi Naitou

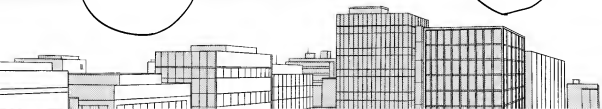
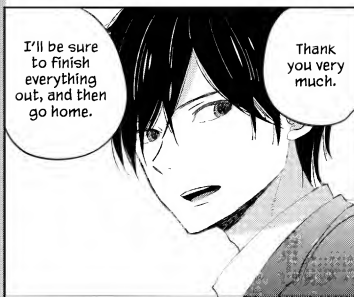
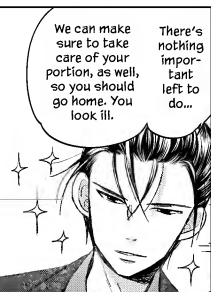
Shinyoshi - Masaki Izawa (Episodes 1-11)







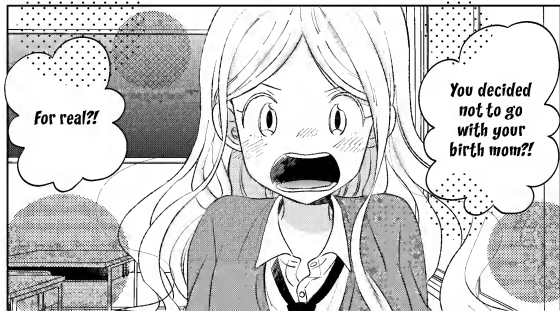




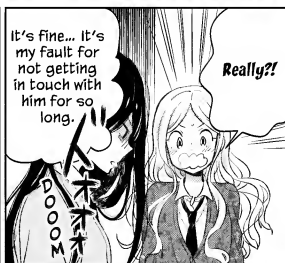
KUKAI

(774-835)

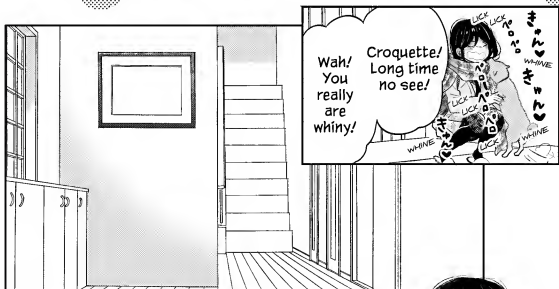
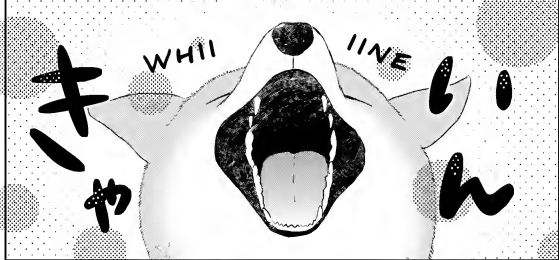
Kukai was born in 774 in the present-day Zentsu-ji precincts in the province of Sanuki on the island of Shikoku. His family were members of the aristocratic Saeki family, a branch of the ancient Otomo clan. There is some doubt as to his birth name: Totomono (Precious One) is recorded in one source, while **Mao (True Fish)** is recorded elsewhere. Mao is generally used in modern studies. Kukai was born in a period of important political changes with Emperor Kanmu (r. 781–806) seeking to consolidate his power and to extend his realm, taking measures which included moving the capital of Japan from Nara ultimately to Heian (modern-day Kyoto).





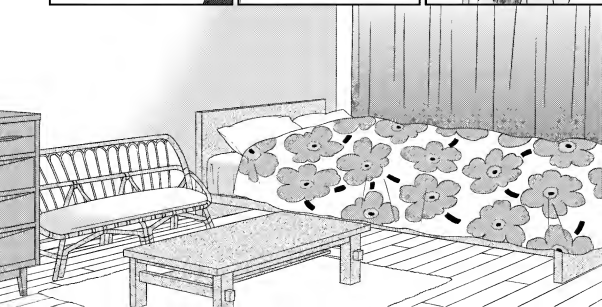


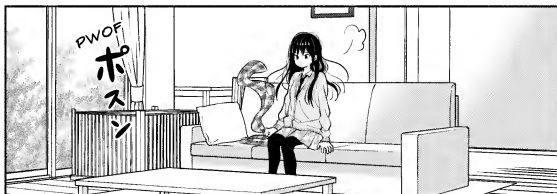
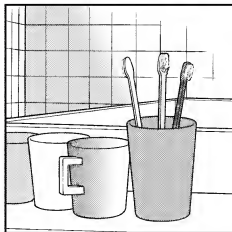




*...to be in
here all alone.*

*But it
already feels
strange...*







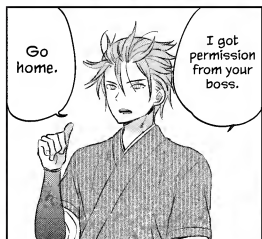


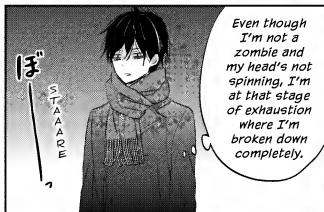








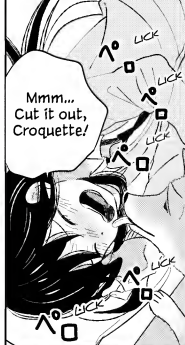












She fell
asleep
before
she
saw the
text.

PANT PANT PANT PANT PANT

A manga panel showing a boy sitting on the floor, looking down at a phone. He has a speech bubble saying "She fell asleep before she saw the text." There are "PANT" sound effects around him.

I see...
Daiki...

yo

A manga panel showing a close-up of a boy with dark hair looking down. He has a speech bubble saying "I see... Daiki...". There is a "yo" sound effect next to him.



Yo.

A manga panel showing a boy and a girl sitting on a bench or desk, looking at each other. The boy is on the left, wearing a jacket, and the girl is on the right, with long dark hair. The boy has a speech bubble saying "Yo.". A cat is visible in the bottom left corner.

**A
a
a
h
!**

**W
a
a
a
a
h
!**

Daiki asked
me to walk
Croquette,
and he gave
me a key.
That's how
I got in.

Sorry
....

I thought
you were
a burglar.

OWWWW
SQUEEEZE

Wait, I
should be
the one
screaming!

And
it was
crazy
deep!

I-I
guess
I fell
asleep.

Looks
like it.

Welcome home.



Did you
go on the
walk?

Ummm ...



I'm home.



Y-yeah.







...I missed
you.



I missed
you, too,
Mao.

Yeah.





Huh?



I met
my birth
mom.



She
wanted
me to
come live
with her.

I made my
decision
on my own.





See,
I can make
decisions
about my own
life without
having to rely
on you.

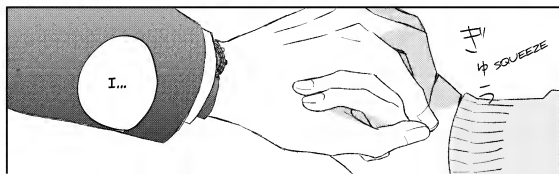


I decided
not to go
with her.

I have to
pay everyone
back for what
they've done
for me... And
you, too, Hiro.



So it's
okay if you
depend on
me a little
more.



I...

フ
フ SQUEEZE
う







To be continued...



*Hina's going
to be going
back home.*

🏠 EXTRA CHAPTER 🏠 **Stubborn Girl**

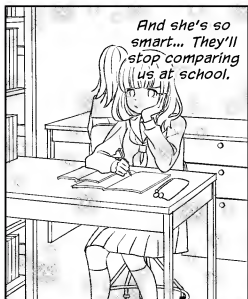


*It's
a great
thing.*



*It's a delightful
occasion!*

*And then there's
the fact that I'm
going to have
my own real little
sister, too...*



And she's so smart... They'll stop comparing us at school.



And all the stuff I used to have to split with Hina is going to be all mine again.



But this is a matched set.



It's like my life can finally start now, huh?!

Now that I think about it, her leaving means nothing but good things!



I can get them to buy me way more.

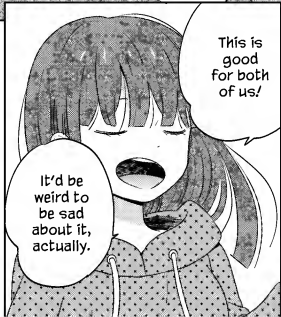
And this, too!

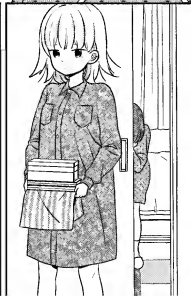
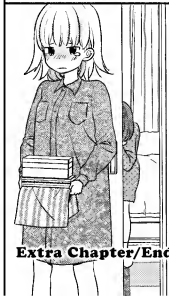
I don't really read much.



Hina... You should take this, too.

It was always a set, so I think it'll be way cuter if you wear them together.





Because
I love you,
Hiro...!

Next
volume

Announcement

All
the
time!

I want
to be
with you,
Mao.

In the
spring of
my 17th
year, I fell
in love in
his house.

They were trapped by their individual feelings...

Reason-
ing!

Yeah.

Hm?

Hey,
Hiro.

It can't
be that

...but finally!

I
can't
say it
aloud
any-
more.

Until
you came,
I was all
alone.

I was
lonely...

Is it...
...okay
to still
love
him?

It's
strange.

That
was pay-
back.

It's super
gross that
you read a
weird online
novel!

Hiro,
you're a
special
ultra
miracle
super
hyper
idiot!

Mao,
it's because
you're here
that I can do
my best.

It's
because
I love
Mao.



I want you to be here, Mao.

Do your best, Mao.

I'm happy...

Even taking that out of it...

I want to...

...see it, you know.

...that you're here, too.

I want to make Hiro happy myself!

The two of them have loved one another, treasured one another...

Thank you, Hiro.

I said misunderstanding...

...but I like him.

..and Finally...

Thank you so much...

Mao and Hiro, a couple.

I can't do that.

...for calling me to this house.

Wah!

Wah!

Not today.

...for asking me to come here.

What I really want is...

HOUSE of the SUN 13

Finally, the climax!



This is no time to be sleeping!

House of the Sun 12

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